

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claim 12 is canceled.

Claims 1-10 and 17 are allowed.

Claims 13 and 14 are "objected to".

New claims 18 and 19 are added. New claims 18 and 19 correspond, respectively, to "objected to" claims 13 and 14 written in independent form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 18 and 19 should clearly be allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 and 13-19 are currently pending.

**II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-12 AND 15-16 UNDER 35 USC 102(E)
AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY SAIJO (US PATENT NO. 6,503,089)**

Claim 11 is amended to recite a plurality of plates disposed vertically with a predetermined distance and each extending horizontally, and a lock means disposed between the vertically disposed plates for securing the contact pin assembly to the base member, and that the lock means includes a lock member to be rotated from an upper side thereof, the lock member being provided with an engagement piece projecting substantially horizontally in one direction, and the engagement piece being engaged with an engaging portion formed to the base member when the lock member is rotated. Support for the amendments is found, for example, in the original claim 12.

Saijo does not disclose or suggest such a lock means. Instead, a locking mechanism in Saijo is a screw. As compared to the lock means of claim 11, the screw of Saijo will take more time in securing because the screw must be rotated many times.

* * *

Claim 15 is amended to recite the contact pin assembly having a plurality of plates disposed vertically with a predetermined distance and each extending horizontally, the contact pin being detachably secured to the contact pin assembly by the plates without coming off of the contact pin from the contact pin assembly.

On the contrary, the contact pin of Saijo comes off at the time the assembly is not yet inserted into the base member 24 because the contact pin is only inserted into the upper side plate 25 (see FIG. 3 of Saijo). In Saijo, at this moment, it is difficult to handle the assembly independently because the contact pin would be slipped out of the assembly downward because

there is no stopper to prevent coming off of the contact pin.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

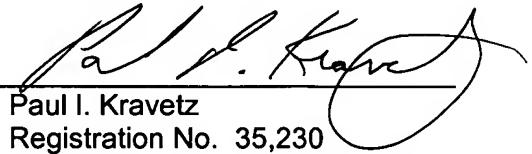
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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